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EAST AFRICA

REDUCING MARITIME TRAFFICKING OF WILDLIFE BETWEEN AFRICA AND ASIA

The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) Global Environment Facility (GEF) project Reducing Maritime Trafficking of Wildlife between Africa and Asia is a USD \$4 million partnership initiative aimed to curb maritime wildlife trafficking, targeting key routes and transit points between Africa and Asia. Implemented by UNDP since 2018, the project is part of the GEF-financed, World Bank-led Global Wildlife Program (GWP) that was launched in June 2015. It was expanded through funding from USAID, commencing implementation in 2021. The GWP brings together a wide range of partners, including the governments of 32 participating countries across Africa, Asia, and Latin America, GEF agencies, bilateral and multilateral donors, foundations, the private sector, and civil society.

OUR WORK

Illegal Wildlife Trade is among the five most lucrative illegal trades globally and estimated to be worth up to \$23 billion annually. Traffickers use legitimate transport, logistics services and commercial trade routes to illegally move wildlife and their products from source to consumer countries. Many illegal wildlife goods (70-90 percent by volume) are trafficked by sea, in containerized cargo due to minimal risk of interception and arrest. To address the issue, the project is focused on Mombasa, Dar es Salaam and Zanzibar seaports, as well as Kampala dry port. The project strengthens the capacity of law enforcement agencies and coordination with the private sector to prevent, detect and intercept wildlife trafficking.

It further aims to improve cooperation between ports in Africa and Asia, including through coordination and knowledge exchange with projects under the Global Wildlife Program. Project goals include:

- Increase awareness, incentives, and capacity for port-based law enforcement staff and private sector to prevent and intercept maritime wildlife trafficking through seaports.
- Bring together different ports, countries, and players to work cooperatively on combating wildlife trafficking across international illicit trade chains between Africa and Asia.

OUR IMPACT

- 130 participants from government agencies, private sector, international organizations and NGOs took part in the Port Stakeholder Workshops organized in Dar es Salaam (July 2019) and Mombasa (October 2019) in cooperation with the Kenyan Ministry of Tourism and Wildlife, the Tanzanian Ministry of Natural Resources and Tourism, Tanzania Revenue Authority, Tanzania Ports Authority, the Wildlife Trade Monitoring Network (TRAFFIC), United Nations Office of Drugs and Crime (UNODC), and World Wildlife Fund. The workshop participants identified key gaps at the ports and developed sets of practical recommendations to improve prevention and interception of wildlife trafficking through a collaborative inter-agency and inter-sectoral approach.
- An automated container risk profiling system developed by Vietnam Customs has been introduced to the Dar es Salaam Joint Port Control Unit (JPCU). The system effectively profiles thousands of containers in a matter of minutes and detects suspicious cargo that is likely to contain wildlife and other contraband.
- Necessary organizational and training arrangements have been made to establish a JPCU at Zanzibar Port. The Unit will be officially established in 2021 and will join a global network of JPCUs under the UNODC-World Customs Organization (WCO) - Container Control Program.
- 18 officers of the Mombasa and Dar es Salaam JPCUs successfully completed the UNODC-WCO Container Control Programme advanced training on the Convention of International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES), wildlife crime intelligence, and automatic risk profiling.
- The training course "Ports & The Supply Chain: Awareness and security measures to prevent illegal wildlife trade" has been developed by the Institute of Chartered Shipbrokers (ICS). The course is available for private sector and government stakeholders through ICS. At the end of 2020, 50 representatives of 36 government and private sector organizations, mainly from Africa, completed the course.
- The project gave technical support for a proposal submitted by the Government of Kenya to develop an International Maritime Organization resolution on Guidelines for the Prevention and Suppression of the Smuggling of Wildlife on Ships engaged in International Maritime Traffic. The proposal has been approved, opening the door for the development of a new anti-trafficking tool for shipping lines.
- Forensic analysis of two large-scale African ivory seizures (with a total weight of 12,100 kg) by the University of Washington provided the US Homeland Security Investigation, Uganda Revenue Authority, Uganda Wildlife Authority, Singapore National Parks Board, and Singapore Customs with critical evidence for successful investigation and prosecution of transnational wildlife trafficking gangs.
- The Port Monitoring and Anti-Trafficking Evaluation (PortMATE) tool, reshaped by the project, has been successfully applied for express assessments of ports and border posts in the Democratic Republic of Congo (under the USAID Central Africa Program for the Environment) and ports in the Philippines.

BUDGET: \$4,000,000

DURATION: 2018-2023

ACTIVITY LOCATIONS

Kenya, Tanzania, and Uganda

KEY PARTNERS

United Nations Development Programme
Global Environment Facility

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